

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS STATE 158695

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGAO, TGEN, CA

SUBJECT: MEETING OF GAO METRIC TASK FORCE WITH CANADIAN
METRIC COMMISSION - AUGUST 22 - 24, 1977 IN OTTAWA.

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE U.S. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, THAT THE GAO METRIC TASK FORCE WILL MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE CANADIAN METRIC COMMISSION IN OTTAWA, AUGUST 22 - 24, 1977. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING WERE MADE THROUGH C. M. BOLGER, CHAIRMAN OF THE CANADIAN METRIC COMMISSION, 301 ELGIN STREET, OTTAWA, K1A 0H5. PARTICIPANTS FROM THE GAO WILL BE MESSRS. DONALD LEPLA, ANDREW OLSEN, NATHANIEL DIXON, RAYMOND SMITH, JR., CHARLES GRISSINGER, CHESTER SIPSOCK AND J. KEVIN DONAHUE, THE TASK FORCE DIRECTOR. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE FOR THE GROUP AT THE PARK LANE HOTEL IN OTTAWA.

2. FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, THE GAO HAS BEEN STUDYING WHAT EFFECTS THE EVENTUAL CONVERSION TO THE METRIC
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MEASUREMENT SYSTEM WILL HAVE ON THE UNITED STATES. IN THIS CONNECTION, GAO TASK FORCE MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY VISITED SEVERAL EUROPEAN CAPITALS TO OBTAIN DATA ON THE EXPERIENCES ENCOUNTERED BY THESE COUNTRIES IN CONVERTING TO THE METRIC SYSTEM. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE USED IN COMPILING A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.

3. THE GAO GROUP WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH THE

AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 22, PRIOR TO THE FIRST MEETING WITH THE CANADIAN OFFICIALS AND FOR AN EXIT INTERVIEW AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SESSIONS ON AUGUST 24. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH OTHER CANADIAN OFFICIALS MAY BE DESIRED BY THE TASK FORCE. AS SOON AS THIS IS KNOWN, EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE WILL BE REQUESTED IN SETTING UP AN APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULE. THE GAO IS AWARE THAT CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE AMBASSADOR, TO BE ARRANGED FOR BY THE EMBASSY AND EMBOFF TO ACCOMPANY, IF FEASIBLE.

4. TRAVEL PLANS AND OTHER DETAILS REGARDING THE FORTH-COMING MEETINGS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF SEPTELS.

5. IT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY TO ASSIST THE GAO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES CONTAINED IN 4 FAM 930-934. ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS ARISING DURING THE COURSE OF THIS VISIT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT. VANCE

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